

Again, thank you, Mr. Matt Bravo, for the service you have given to all of us.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will my friend yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with everything the gentleman said. Maybe he is not the best floor director—I have got a pretty good one myself—but he is a very, very good floor director.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, we can maybe disagree on that like we disagree on who has the best crabs, but we will enjoy that disagreement.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was going to say that one of the problems that I have with Mr. Bravo is that he thinks that Louisiana crabs are better than Maryland crabs, but loyalty is an important aspect of our service.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to join my friend, Mr. SCALISE, the majority whip, and thank Matt Bravo for the leadership that he has given on this floor, and particularly on behalf of my floor staff with whom he has worked very closely, both when he was with Mr. Cantor, with whom I worked very closely, and now Mr. SCALISE, with whom I work closely. We thank him for his service to this House.

Every time I rise, I say, whether it is a Democratic or a Republican staffer who works this floor, they work with all of us, and they work in a way that tries to facilitate the doing of the people's business.

They are not always as successful as they would like to be. It is the fault of the Members, not of the staff. They have good plans that go awry because the Members do not cooperate. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell Matt that I understand that very well.

Mr. Speaker, we want to thank Matt for the very collegial, positive, constructive way in which he has worked with my staff, with the leader's staff, with other staff on this side of the aisle, as well as staff on his side of the aisle to assure that we can, to the best extent possible, work in a constructive way on behalf of the American people.

I am sure that Matt will be as successful in future endeavors as he has been here, and, if so, very, very successful indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority whip for yielding me time, and I wish Matt Bravo the very best.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Democratic whip for his kind words and for the way that our offices do work together on those occasions. Frankly, it is most occasions where we are working together on things. Obviously, there are times when we are not; but even in those times, our staffs have a great working relationship and a trust level that is really important to the House getting its business done.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Democratic leader.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would be honored to yield to the chief deputy whip, Mr. MCHENRY.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special pleasure to come and speak to the career of a great public servant, Matt Bravo.

Matt has worked here in the House for 11 years in various roles. He started off as body guy for Leader Cantor when Leader Cantor served as chief deputy whip. In addition to that, he has held various roles in the whip operation, in the leader's office on the Republican side of the aisle, as well as important work on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Matt Bravo has a great sense of humor, a great love for the game of golf. He is much better at the game of golf than he is at his jokes. We love Matt Bravo. We love teasing him. We love giving him a hard time, but we know his true character. We know how he works intensely to see things through, to grind out the votes to get 218 to pass our agenda.

Mr. Speaker, we know Matt will be successful in this next phase of his career. We thank him for his friendship. We thank him for his service to this House. On both sides of the aisle, the respect that he has gained is immense, and we congratulate him on this next phase.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Matt for his service in the people's House, to his government, to the United States of America's people. We will miss him.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize that Matt's lovely wife, Summer, is in the balcony, too, and I thank her for the time that she lent him to us and to this great institution. The best of luck to her family and her future with Matt.

PROTECT BOB MUELLER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today the Republicans showed their values.

They showed their values in the tax bill that gave 83 percent of the dollars to the upper 1 percent of the economic strata in this country.

They showed their values in giving real estate developers special tax breaks, like President Trump and others, and gave people who are extremely wealthy the opportunity to will more money to their children or whoever they choose than they can today, an \$11 million break.

It has been sad sitting on the Judiciary Committee and watching the Republicans be aiders and abettors of the President in trying to demean the reputation of one of the finest Americans and public servants I have ever had the opportunity to know, Bob Mueller, and probably with the intention of firing

him, something that should wake Republicans up to the fact that our country is in jeopardy.

We shouldn't be doing things that help the Russians get away with efforts to change our elections and interfere with our country's values. America first, Russia last. Protect Bob Mueller.

HEZBOLLAH IS A TERRORIST GROUP AND A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah is not only a terrorist group, it is a criminal organization that funds its terror through drug trafficking, arms dealing, and money laundering.

Hezbollah is believed to raise \$4 billion to \$5 billion, annually, through these criminal activities. Tons of Hezbollah cocaine makes its way into the United States every year, but the past administration refused to designate Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, as a criminal organization making it possible to prosecute Hezbollah in the United States.

They repeatedly delayed and denied DEA requests to investigate and prosecute Hezbollah drug dealing and arms dealing networks. Why? So Iran would not back out of the nuclear deal.

In 2016, the White House even let a Hezbollah arms dealer with connections to Putin go free. That is why Representatives COOK, ROS-LEHTINEN, and I sent a letter to the President yesterday urging him to designate Hezbollah as a transnational criminal organization and a kingpin entity.

No more backroom deals for Iran. We must change course quickly. Every day more illegal money flows into Hezbollah's coffers. Hezbollah terrorists and criminals ought to be prosecuted.

And that is just the way it is.

GOP TAX BILL IS THE GREATEST TRANSFER OF WEALTH

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, the tax bill we passed today has little in common with what Speaker RYAN described to us yesterday. Putting more money into the pockets of working people would be great, but that is not what they wrote this bill to do.

I have grown a business, made payroll every 2 weeks for more than 40 years, and invested many millions of dollars in plant and equipment. I still voted "no," though, because I was just wise enough to realize that without our people, our employees, we have nothing. I would be enthusiastic about a tax bill that actually put more money into their pockets instead of mine.

We have 381 hardworking men and women on our payroll today. Not a single one will benefit from the doubling

of the estate tax exclusion, but every one will be affected by the medical insurance premium rates, which this bill will drive up.

Every one will be at risk when their minimal so-called tax cuts expire in just a few years. Mine, by the way, are permanent. Our children and grandchildren will suffer ever more greatly as we continue to balloon the Federal debt.

This tax bill may be the greatest transfer of wealth from working Americans to the idle rich in the history of our country. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad day for the country I love.

HONORING TWO NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

(Mr. BIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of two Navajo Code Talkers, George B. Willie Sr. and Teddy Draper Sr., who recently both passed away in my home State of Arizona.

While both young men, Mr. Willie and Mr. Draper enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and valiantly served in World War II in the Battles of Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

The Navajo Code Talkers used the Navajo language to transmit and receive messages that could not be translated or intercepted by the Japanese. This unique skill was a great advantage for the United States' victory in the Pacific theater.

In 2001, both Mr. Willie and Mr. Draper were awarded the Congressional Silver Medal for their service and selfless devotion to duty. The sacrifices of Mr. Willie and Mr. Draper and their families during World War II will be remembered for generations. We will be forever grateful for their dedication to our Nation.

GOP TAX PLAN

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the tax bill passed by the House GOP today embodies everything that Americans dislike about Congress:

It was drafted behind closed doors where the drafters cast aside expert analysis and relied instead on special interests and faulty disproven assumptions.

The plan slashes tax rates for multinational corporations and the super-wealthy, but leaves hardworking Americans in the 47th Congressional District to pay the bill.

It penalizes taxpayers in California and other blue States for investing in our schools, in our roads, and in our public services.

It cruelly hits children, seniors, and low-income Americans by putting at risk Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, and Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I could not, and proudly did not, vote for this disastrous piece of legislation.

UNION COUNTY FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT RETIRES

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a public servant from my district in Union County, New Jersey, Freeholder Vernell Wright, on the occasion of her retirement.

Freeholder Wright began her career in public service in 1966 as a title 1 teacher at Jefferson School in Union Township, New Jersey. For 36 years, she helped educate the county's public schoolchildren.

In 2012, the people of Union Township sent their beloved educator to represent them on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Freeholder Wright's legacy as an elected official is best characterized by her unselfish devotion to the constituents whom she represents. As recognition for her dedicated work and selfless service, she has been awarded New Jersey's Freeholder of the Year Award and Union County's Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award.

Freeholder Wright is a model for the next generation of public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the people back in Union County tonight at a dinner to honor Freeholder Wright's lifetime of service. I am honored to be her Member of Congress.

God bless Freeholder Wright.

□ 1915

HONORING THE LIFE OF LORIMER ARENDSE, PRINCIPAL OF GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lorimer Arendse, the principal of Grand Prairie High School, who lost his battle with stage IV lung cancer on December 15.

Never shy about sharing his hatred for school during his formative years, Lorimer found his passion for academics once he met and fell in love with his wife, Jeanelle, while attending Grace College in Warsaw, Indiana. Upon graduating Grace College, Lorimer continued his passion for education upon earning his master's degree in educational administration from Ashland University.

From there, he began his career in education as a math teacher and advanced to assistant principal. In 2013, Lorimer was named principal of the Young Men's Leadership Academy at Kennedy Middle School in Grand Prairie. In 2014, he was named principal of Grand Prairie High School.

Although his time with us was short, let us all be encouraged by his final lesson: treat each other with kindness. Be respectful. Be courteous. Be what a Gopher is.

At this time, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their prayers to Principal Lorimer Arendse's family and the Grand Prairie High School community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COUNCILMAN PETER BROWN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to celebrate the life of a dear friend, the Honorable Peter Brown, former council member at large for the city of Houston. Tomorrow he will be memorialized in Houston, Texas.

It saddens me that I will not be able to join him and his family and the many, many Houstonians and friends who will come to honor him. The reason is because Peter Brown was Houston's chief champion. He loved Houston. He loved to talk about mobility in Houston. Even before most Houstonians understood the value of the light rail system, Peter Brown was on the forefront.

He was an architect, and he understood beauty and planning. He had a humorous and wonderful touch, but he also was serious and stern when it came to planning and the environment. Peter Brown wanted to see Houston as it is and as it continues to be a world class city. Before we spoke of greenery and all the things that make a city great, the parks, green space, Peter Brown was doing so.

Peter Brown was also a dear friend to me, my family, and so many others. He lost his battle just about 10 days ago to a terrible and vicious disease. But as I visited Peter, I can assure you that on the occasions I went to see him, he was always thinking about others and thinking about the city, thinking about our State and the Nation, always sharing, but fighting his fight.

To his family and his children and to the people who love him, I just simply want to say: tonight and tomorrow we honor a great American, a friend to us all.

He may be from Houston, Texas, but if you got a chance to know him, you would love him, too.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in honor of the Honorable Peter Brown.

HEALTHCARE AND LITTLE LOBBYISTS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend our Nation's children.

The GOP tax scam repeals the provision assuring all families have health